

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

JOINT STAFF REPORT  
WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 3  
Columbia River Compact  
February 18, 2005

*Fisheries under consideration: -Non-Indian commercial fisheries*

2005 MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- The Interim Management Agreement includes an abundance-based sliding scale harvest matrix for upriver spring and Snake River summer chinook with impacts during 2005 limited to 12% for both non-Indian fisheries (2%) and treaty Indian (10%) fisheries combined.
- The states reinitiated consultation with NOAA Fisheries regarding impacts to wild winter steelhead and NOAA has responded with a Biological Opinion that establishes a 6% impact limit on wild winter steelhead for 2005.
- A Level 2 commercial smelt fishery in the mainstem Columbia River was adopted at the December 16, 2004 Compact hearing.
- The Willamette FMEP limits freshwater fishery impacts on wild Willamette River spring chinook to  $\leq 15\%$  and requires the release of wild Willamette spring chinook in all freshwater fisheries.
- Non-Indian upriver spring chinook impacts will be allocated 60% (1.2% impact rate) for sport fisheries and 40% (0.8% impact rate) for commercial fisheries.
- The Joint Staff is recommending the following allocations and buffers for the 2005 Spring Chinook Fisheries:

<i>Commercial Spring Chinook Allocation by Fishery</i>	
<b>Fishery</b>	<b>2005 Allocation</b>
	<b>0.8%</b>
Mainstem salmon	0.60
SAFE Commercial Winter/Spring	0.10
Buffer (12.5%) Includes Shad Fishery	<u>0.10</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.80</b>
<i>Recreational Spring Chinook Allocation by Fishery</i>	
<b>Fishery</b>	<b>2005 Allocation</b>
	<b>1.2%</b>
Lower Columbia (below Bonneville)	0.79
Bonneville to McNary Dam	0.10
Snake River Sport/Wanapum Tribal	0.20
Lower Columbia Steelhead (May 15-Jun15)	0.01
Buffer (8.3%)	<u>0.10</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.20</b>

## NON-INDIAN COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### *2005 Smelt Fisheries*

- Smelt landings to date have been 81 pounds with no mainstem smelt deliveries since January 31, 2005 and no commercial landings of smelt to date in Washington tributaries.
- Water temperature is currently 41°F and water clarity is 6.0 feet at Bonneville Dam.
- Crab fishermen near the Columbia River mouth report smelt and salmon being eaten by marine mammals.

### *2005 Winter Commercial Sturgeon Fishery*

- At the December 16 hearing, the Compact adopted five fishing periods for sturgeon (6 AM Tuesday-6 AM Wednesday) from January 18 through February 16.
- Landings through February 16 include 397 sturgeon and 17 salmon. The allocation for this fishery is 1,800 sturgeon.
- The number of deliveries has ranged from 10 to 15.

### *2005 Winter Salmon Commercial Fishery*

- Regulations for the 2005 commercial salmon fishing season were adopted at the January 28, 2005 Compact hearing, which included a fishing plan, gear regulations and sanctuaries.

## FISHERY PROPOSALS

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Joint Staff recommends adoption of the following commercial sturgeon fishing period in the mainstem Columbia River:</li></ul>	
<b>Season:</b>	6 AM Tuesday February 22 – 6 AM Wednesday February 23 (24 hours)
<b>Area:</b>	Zones 1 - 5.
<b>Gear:</b>	9" minimum and 9 ¾" maximum mesh size restrictions.
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	Sturgeon and adipose fin-clipped salmon.
<b>Sanctuaries:</b>	Sandy River sanctuary.
<b>Expected Catch:</b>	100-1,000 white sturgeon Up to 50 spring chinook
<b>Miscellaneous:</b>	Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers.

- The Joint Staff is expecting to start test fishing on Sunday February 27 with the first potential salmon fishing period to begin on Tuesday, March 1.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff is recommending a Compact meeting for Tuesday at 1PM via telephone to consider modification of the smelt fishery.
- The Joint Staff is recommending a potential Compact hearing (via telephone) be scheduled for 2:00 PM February 28, 2005 to review test fishing results and consider a commercial fishing period for Tuesday, March 1.